

A MUTANT HUMAN HEPATITIS B
VIRAL STRAIN AND USES THEREOF

ABSTRACT

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This invention provides an isolated strain of Hepatitis B virus designated Human Hepatitis B Virus Surface Antigen-'S'-133 Oon Strain (Methionine to Threonine) which constituent viral genome is deposited under
10 Accession Nos. P97121501, P97121502 and P97121503 with the European Collection of Cell Culture on 15th December 1997. This invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide which is a mutant major surface antigen of a strain of hepatitis B virus, such
15 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence which differs from the amino acid sequence of a major surface antigen of a wild type hepatitis B virus in that the amino acid at position number 133 of such polypeptide is a threonine rather than a methionine. This invention
20 also provides an isolated nucleic acid which encodes a peptide, wherein the peptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 527 through 595 of SEQ. I.D. No. 1 and the purified peptide. This
25 invention also provides various methods of using the disclosed isolated nucleic acid and peptides.